

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as shown below.

In the Specification

Please amend the following paragraphs in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 to the clean version shown below. A marked up version is shown in Appendix A.

Please replace paragraph 56 with the following clean version.

Mailbox 210 is preferably airtight when closed. The postal worker opens door 211 using latch 212. The door opens on hinges 214, 216. The controller 250 includes a mail presence sensor such as a light beam system or spring biased switch 299 to detect the presence of mail. When the mailbox is opened, mail is inserted and the mailbox closed, the controller 250 starts a decontamination cycle. The controller lights warning LED 218. The controller initiates radiation sources 230, 232. In this embodiment, the sources include an electron gun to provide 300 KeV soft electrons. The beams sweep through each side of the mailbox using deflector coils against a backstop 240 that will absorb the beam and not produce x-rays. The backstop 240 may include a heat sink to the exterior of the mailbox.

In the Claims

~~Please cancel claims 1-6, 12-13 and 16~~ without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 26 - 34 as shown below.

Please amend claims 7, 8 and 17 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 to the clean version shown below. A marked up version is shown in Appendix A.

New Claims

26. (NEW) A mailbox for decontaminating mail comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the mailbox;
a decontamination system operatively connected to a controller for decontaminating mail; and